

CHAPTER 2 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter identifies a range of goals and objectives for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument (PTNM). Since the *Draft PTNM RMP/EIS* was published, the BLM has issued new guidance for land use planning in National Monuments (*Manual 6220-National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, and Similar Designations* (USDI BLM 2012)). This guidance directs the BLM to identify management actions, allowable uses, restrictions, management actions regarding any valid existing rights, and mitigation measures to ensure that the Monument resources, objects and values are protected. This *Proposed Final RMP/EIS* adopts the new guidance.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal agencies to consider a reasonable range of alternative approaches when proposing and analyzing Federal actions. The different alternatives within this Chapter are developed with guidance from professional resource specialists, Monument Legislation-Public Law 111-11 (located in Appendix A), NEPA, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), BLM regulations and policies (Appendix B), and public input.

Three management alternatives have been developed and analyzed for the PTNM along with the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative is a description of the current management, which is a combination of management decisions, goals, and objectives from the *Mimbres RMP* (1993), Monument Legislation, and current policies and regulations. The No Action Alternative allows for a point of reference for the other three developed management alternatives.

Proposed within this Chapter are two different types of decisions. Those decisions are either planning (broad overarching) decisions or implementation (on-the-ground) decisions. The implementation decisions are denoted with an asterisk (*). Planning decisions may be protested, while implementation decisions can be appealed at the time of their implementation, and this is described in the Dear Reader letter at the front of this document.

Chapter 2 Sections

- Section 2.2 describes the alternative development process for the *PTNM RMP/EIS* and provides an overview of the focus of each of the three action alternatives considered.
- Section 2.3 lists directives from the *Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, Subtitle B-The Prehistoric Trackways National Monument*.
- Section 2.4 describes the management alternatives in detail. Goals, Objectives, Management Common to All Alternatives, and the Proposed Management Actions are described in this section. Management Common to All Alternatives lists management guidance that will follow through all of the proposed alternatives.
- Section 2.5 is a summary of the impact analyses from Chapter 4, depicted in a table.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT

RMPs are broad-scale land management plans that establish desired outcomes (goals and objectives) for management of the public land and identify the management actions and allowable public uses that will

reach those outcomes. An Approved RMP and Record of Decision (ROD) provide the framework for future site-specific management decisions and actions.

Implementation-level decisions are typically made after the RMP is adopted, but in this RMP some implementation-level decisions are identified and incorporated into the alternatives. An example of an implementation-level decision within this RMP is the Trails and Travel Management Plan, which includes decisions designating routes as motorized or non-motorized (Appendix C).

Goals and objectives were developed through the planning process for every applicable resource. Goals describe broad direction and desired conditions for each resource or resource use, as interpreted through the Monument resources, objects, and values identified in Chapter 1, BLM policy guidance, and public scoping input.

Objectives describe more detailed outcomes or desired future conditions for different components of the resource or resource use that meet the overall goals. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable and may have established timeframes for achievement (as appropriate). Some objectives are common to all alternatives while others vary by alternative. Alternatives must:

- Meet the purpose and need for the RMP (see Chapter 1).
- Be reasonable.
- Be responsive to issues identified in scoping.
- Meet the established planning criteria (see Chapter 1), Federal laws and regulations, and BLM planning policy.

2.2.1 ALTERNATIVE THEMES

Alternative A or the “*No Action Alternative*” represents the continuation of existing management, which is defined by the *Mimbres RMP* (1993) and the legislation designating the Monument, the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*. Two RMP amendments also affect management of the *Planning Area: New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (2001) (NM Standards and Guidelines) and the *Resource Management Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management on Public Land in New Mexico and Texas* (2004).

Alternative B represents a more restrictive approach to use of the Monument that emphasizes resource protection; BLM would invest less in the Monument and would limit changes and involvement as compared to Alternatives C and D.

- All paleontological resources would be conserved for future scientific research.
- The Monument would be closed to casual collection of common invertebrate fossils.
- The Monument would be closed to livestock grazing.
- The Monument would be closed to all mechanized and motorized vehicles - exceptions may be authorized for any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicles or any vehicle in official use or expressly authorized in writing by the authorized officer.
- There would be no prohibitions on recreational target shooting.
- Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) would not be issued.
- The education and interpretation program would be primarily off-site.

Alternative C (Preferred Alternative) protects resources while allowing compatible public uses. The BLM has determined that this is the best combination of management approaches to protect the resources, objects and values in the Monument.

- Paleontological resources deemed suitable for scientific research would be conserved and used for scientific research only. Paleontological resources appropriate for interpretation, educational and recreational use would be developed for that use.
- The Monument would be closed to casual collecting of petrified wood, common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources.
- Allotment management plans would be adjusted to exclude grazing at specific locations such as campsites or fossil sites based on the Monument Monitoring Plan results.
- Motorized and mechanized travel within the Monument would be limited to designated routes and require a no-fee day-use permit.
- Approximately 5.4 miles of previously designated routes would be closed to motorized and mechanized travel.
- Recreational target shooting would be prohibited.
- New routes or trails may be developed by the BLM to enhance visitor experiences and research opportunities.
- Commercial, competitive, and organized group activities would be managed through the SRP process.
- Education and interpretation would be enhanced on-site and off-site including an on-site visitor contact station.
- Organized tours and self-guided interpretive activities would be developed.

Alternative D represents a maximum use approach to management of the Monument and the widest range of public uses of the resources while still following the constraints of the Monument Legislation.

- Localities deemed suitable for scientific research would be preserved and used for scientific research only.
- Localities appropriate for interpretation, educational and recreational use would be developed.
- The Monument would be closed to casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources.
- Limited collecting of common invertebrates would be allowed when in conjunction with a BLM-authorized educational or interpretive activity.
- Current livestock management would continue in the Monument.
- Approximately 4.0 miles of designated routes would be closed to motorized and mechanized use.
- New motorized and non-motorized routes may be developed by the BLM to enhance visitor experiences and research opportunities.
- Competitive, commercial, and organized group activities would be managed through the SRP process.
- Recreational target shooting would be prohibited.
- Education and interpretation would be developed for the Monument both on-site and off-site, including an on-site visitor center.
- Organized tours and self-guided interpretive activities would be developed along with an interpretive motorized tour route.

Slight changes, wording, acreages, and format were made to the *Proposed RMP*. These are described in more detail in Section 1.11, and in Appendix H.

2.2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT ANALYZED IN DETAIL

2.2.2.1 Community Pit #1

During scoping, the BLM received a comment to consider including the adjacent Community Pit #1 into the Monument. Community Pit #1 is not within the Monument boundary and is therefore outside the *Planning Area* for this RMP, and this RMP cannot make decisions for land outside the *Planning Area*. Only the Secretary of the Interior or President may alter the Monument boundary. This action cannot be accomplished through the RMP process.

2.2.2.2 Target Shooting Allowed Within a Designated Area of Monument

In Alternatives C and D, the BLM proposes to close the Monument to recreational target shooting. No restrictions are proposed in Alternatives A and B. A proposal to allow target shooting within a designated area was evaluated in a map-based exercise in GIS using a ½-mile safety buffer (described further in Appendix G) overlain on documented paleontological localities in the Monument (areas where researchers and visitors were likely to congregate). This GIS analysis determined that only 356 acres, or 7 percent, of the Monument lies outside the Safety Zone. This area is near the southern boundary. There are no access roads on this side of the Monument and no distinct physical boundaries for the 356 acres. From a management perspective, allowing recreational target shooting within these 356 acres would be difficult since it would be hard to sign the area and enforce the boundary; therefore, it is not feasible to carry this alternative forward for further analysis. Approximately 10 miles southwest of the PTNM is the Butterfield Range, which is a City of Las Cruces facility that is free for public use and open 7 days a week. The shooting range accommodates a full range of target shooting, including pistol, rifle and shotgun, and has multiple shooting bays ranging from 25 yards to 1000 yards.

2.3 PTNM LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVES

The four alternatives were developed by considering the PTNM legislative directives. Each alternative must incorporate the elements of the Legislation presented below:

- The Secretary shall manage the Monument in a manner that conserves, protects, and enhances the resources and values of the Monument.
- Provide for public interpretation of, and education and scientific research on, the paleontological resources of the Monument, with priority given to exhibiting and curating the resources in Doña Ana County, New Mexico.
- Enter into cooperative management agreements or other instruments with interested parties or agencies, as appropriate, to coordinate and collaborate management of the Monument.
- Continue to manage that portion of the Robledo Mountains Wilderness Study Area (WSA) within the Monument until such time that Congress designates it as a Wilderness Area or releases it from further consideration.
- Continue to manage that portion of the Robledo Mountains Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) within the Monument as an ACEC.

- Land use authorizations may be permitted to facilitate the management of the Monument and to meet the intent of the enabling Legislation. The Secretary shall only allow uses of the Monument that the Secretary determines would further the purposes for which the Monument has been established.
- Subject to valid existing rights, close the Monument to location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and the operation of the mineral leasing laws, geothermal leasing laws, and minerals materials laws.
- Manage any land or interest in land that is acquired by the United States for inclusion in the Monument after the date of enactment of this Act in the same manner and degree as herein described for the rest of the Monument.
- Except as needed for administrative purposes or to respond to an emergency, the use of motorized vehicles in the Monument shall be allowed only on roads and trails designated in this plan for use by motorized vehicles.

The broad categories of Monument resources, objects, and values found within the PTNM Legislation can be further defined based on scoping issues and BLM experience with the area.

- *Paleontological*
Fossil resources are predominantly Permian Age fossil material, but may be expanded to encompass subsequent discoveries.
- *Scientific*
Science-based research conducted on paleontological and geologic resources, especially Permian Age fossils and their geologic context.
- *Educational*
Educational and interpretive opportunities on the Permian fossils.
- *Recreation*
Recreational uses related to the enjoyment, appreciation, and protection of the fossil resources and their geologic context.
- *Scenic*
The distinct geologic exposures of the Robledo Mountains in the context of the Permian fossils.

2.4 MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

2.4.1 PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

GOAL 1: Conserve, protect and enhance unique and important paleontological resources and values in the PTNM.

GOAL 2: Manage the Monument to provide for and allow scientific research while taking into consideration conservation and preservation of the paleontological resources.

OBJECTIVE 1: Protect and enhance paleontological resources by ongoing research and documentation, which establishes the scientific, educational, or recreational merit of the localities.

OBJECTIVE 2: Facilitate research that increases our knowledge and understanding of the paleontological resources.

OBJECTIVE 3: Make all ensuing scientific material/data available to the public except locality data and certain details which are considered restricted for the preservation and protection of the resource. Ensure materials are properly curated.

OBJECTIVE 4: Actively work with organizations, schools, and the scientific community to provide for scientific research on the fossil resources.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- The BLM would develop a Monument Monitoring Plan within 2 years of the signing of the PTNM RMP Record of Decision that would establish baseline conditions of fossil resources and track changes to those resources based on management, research, and other factors (such as weathering).
- Unauthorized collection of vertebrate fossils is not allowed under 43 CFR 8365.1-5 and PRPA PL 111-01 Section 6034.a.1. Permits are required for the collection of vertebrate fossils, including their trace fossils, such as trackways and coprolites.
- The PTNM legislation withdraws the Monument from operation under the mineral materials laws. The PTNM is closed to free-use or casual collection of petrified wood without a permit (43 CFR, 3622; BLM Manual 8270 .09 B. 1; and PRPA PL 111-01 Section 6304.e.).
- The BLM would continue to use information collected from work performed under existing and new paleontological permits to evaluate the importance of specific sites in the Monument and to allow for focused permitted research or collecting in response to approved research proposals or management needs.
- Paleontological resources collected under a research permit would be stored in Federally-approved repositories as government property for research and used in exhibits. Paleontological collection permits would be issued with consideration of protecting the integrity of the site from which it is being collected, the protection of the resources, and the value of the scientific research or educational aspect for which it would be collected.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Continued)

(MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES, Concluded)

- The BLM would use the criteria for determining which localities are suitable for scientific research or interpretation, education, and recreation in accordance with the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009-Paleontological Resources Preservation* (16 USC 470aaa et seq.):
 - Furthers paleontological knowledge or public education
 - Provides additional information about the history of life on earth
 - Increases public awareness about the significance of paleontological resources
 - Promotes the scientific and educational use of paleontological resources
 - Will not threaten significant natural or cultural resources
 - Will not create risk of harm to, or theft or destruction of, the paleontological resources or the locality
- All proposed research projects would be evaluated by the BLM staff, including the Regional Paleontologist, for all proposed paleontological research projects. The following items would be considered prior to authorization:
 - An assessment of whether the proposed research is the appropriate current use of the resource
 - An assessment of its priority level if there are multiple proposals
 - An appropriate level of environmental analysis (NEPA)
 - Incorporating project-specific stipulations for resource protection
 - A final written determination, which would be in the form of an authorization
- All contractors, cooperators, partners, volunteers, and permittees conducting or assisting with scientific activities in the Monument must comply with the requirements of the Department of the Interior and the BLM policies on Scientific Integrity, including professional conduct.
- The BLM would identify research priorities and update or revise on an as-needed-basis.
- The BLM would obtain copies of research projects and published research articles based on work conducted in the Monument and establish an in-house reference collection for primary research.
- The BLM would maintain, encourage, and enter into partnerships or cooperative agreements with appropriate entities and individuals to conduct research within the Monument.
- The BLM would provide existing GIS, or other data as available and appropriate, to qualified researchers when requested.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Casual collecting of common invertebrates and plant fossils is allowed throughout the Monument.	<p>Closed to casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils and ichnofossils. A permit would be required for any collecting [16 USC 470aaa-3(e) at 123 Stat. 1174].</p> <p>Collection of petrified wood would be allowed only with a permit (BLM Manual 8270.09 B. 1.).</p>	<p>Closed to casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils and ichnofossils. A permit would be required for any collecting [16 USC 470aaa-3(e) at 123 Stat. 1174].</p> <p>Collection of petrified wood would be allowed only with a permit (BLM Manual 8270.09 B. 1.).</p>	<p>Closed to casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils and ichnofossils. A permit would be required for any collecting [16 USC 470aaa-3(e) at 123 Stat. 1174].</p> <p>Collection of petrified wood would be allowed only with a permit (BLM Manual 8270.09 B. 1.).</p> <p>Limited collecting of common invertebrate fossils without a permit may be allowed only in conjunction with BLM approved interpretive or educational activities at specified locations. Amounts collected would not exceed 5 of any one variety of invertebrate fossil or 2 pounds per person. Use of small hand tools would not be allowed.</p>
Management is directed by FLPMA, other legislative acts and instruction memoranda.	Conserve all paleontological resources localities for on-going and future scientific research.	Localities deemed suitable for scientific research would be preserved and used for scientific research only. Localities appropriate for interpretation, educational and recreational use would be developed for that use.	

2.4.2 EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION*

GOAL 1: Provide interpretive and educational opportunities supporting and protective of the fossil resources.

OBJECTIVE 1: Partner with organizations (e.g. museums, research and academic institutions) on local and National levels to assist the BLM in providing educational and interpretive opportunities to the public within the Monument.

OBJECTIVE 2: Develop interpretive trails and visitor facilities.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Continue BLM and partner-led interpretive tours to the *Discovery Site* and other appropriate sites.
- Develop interpretative materials for programs and events.
- Develop a K-12 paleontological curriculum, in partnership with local school districts, in accordance with State/National standards.
- Develop paleontological and other natural resources interpretive materials for websites.
- Develop and deliver paleontological interpretive and educational programs to school and civic groups.
- Support the development of paleontological exhibits for venues in Doña Ana County and beyond.



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Activities implemented on a case-by-case basis	Develop interpretive materials on paleontological resources such as wayside exhibits, brochures and smart phone applications to support self-guided interpretive activities.*		
	Develop interpretive programs on paleontological resources for ranger or docent-led field tours of the PTNM for school groups and for public and civic groups.*		
	Minimal directional and informational signs would be installed at established routes.*	Develop pedestrian trails with orientation kiosks (with or without brochures) and wayside exhibits interpreting PTNM resources in place, based on an activity level plan in Recreation and Visitor Services.*	
		Develop exhibits for on-site interpretation at a <i>visitor contact station(s)</i> and other destinations. A Visitor Contact Station is a minimal facility that is a point of contact for BLM staff or volunteers to be present and available to interact with the public. It does not necessarily provide a range of amenities such as indoor restrooms, or exhibits. It is a building, or possibly a shade shelter, where public can expect to find information about PTNM.*	Develop interpretive and educational materials and programs for an <i>on-site visitor center</i> , and other destinations. A Visitor Center is a larger facility that provides a location for the visiting public to enjoy the full range of opportunities not possible in a Visitor Contact Station. It would potentially provide the full range of amenities such as indoor restrooms, educational exhibits, and specimen displays.*
		No management action planned.	Prepare an activity plan for a motorized tour route with interpretive materials designed for fossil resources. The route would be self-guided or led by partner groups.*

*All Education and Interpretation Alternatives are Implementation Level Decisions to be carried out in the future after subsequent implementation planning and analysis.

2.4.3 RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

GOAL 1: Plan recreational opportunities that protect unique and Nationally-important paleontological values of the PTNM.

OBJECTIVE 1: Manage approximately 4,480 acres for front-country public visitation. Manage approximately 800 acres of the Robledo Mountains WSA for primitive visitation classification.

OBJECTIVE 2: Manage recreation in a safe and reasonable manner while protecting and enhancing the Monument's paleontological resources, with emphasis on Leave No Trace principles.

OBJECTIVE 3: Designate the Monument as an Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) to support and sustain paleontological resources.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

The Monument Monitoring Plan would track changes to fossil resources based on Recreation and Visitor Services management actions.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Carry forward 5,255 acres as dispersed recreation as managed under the <i>Mimbres RMP</i> (See Map 2-1).	Designate 5,255 acres as ERMA (see Map 2-2). <u>Objective-</u> Self-directed recreation, manage to provide visitor safety and minimize user conflicts. Install minimal directional and informational signs for fossil resources. <u>Activities-</u> Hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, hunting, sightseeing. <u>Experiences-</u> Develop outdoor recreational skills, spend time with one's self or in small groups, enjoy nature, fossil resources, landscapes, physical rest, escape personal/social pressures.	Designate 5,255 acres as ERMA (see Map 2-3). <u>Objective-</u> More directed. In addition to Alternative B objectives, install basic improvements to reduce impacts from recreation activities and to assist in the visitor experience. <u>Activities-</u> Permitted OHV use, mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, camping, hunting, and sightseeing. <u>Experiences-</u> Same as B.	Designate 5,255 acres as ERMA (see Map 2-4). <u>Objective-</u> Directed recreation. In addition to Alternative C Objectives, guide the visitor experience. <u>Activities-</u> Same as C but OHV use would be allowed without a permit. <u>Experiences-</u> Same as B.

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (Continued)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
	<p><i>Benefits-</i></p> <p><u>Personal-</u> Improved physical and mental health, improved skill for outdoor enjoyment, improved awareness of public and private lands, more outdoor oriented.</p> <p><u>Community/Social-</u> Pride in one's community and heritage, self-renewal leading to healthier relations and sense of community.</p> <p><u>Environmental-</u> Increased awareness and protection of distinctive natural, paleontological and landscape features, reduce negative impacts such as litter, vegetative trampling.</p>	<p><i>Benefits-</i></p> <p><u>Personal-</u> Improved physical and mental health, improved skill for outdoor enjoyment, improved relationships with family and friends, improved awareness of public and private lands, more outdoor oriented.</p> <p><u>Community/Social-</u> Self renewal, pride in one's community and heritage, greater family bonding.</p> <p><u>Environmental-</u> Same as B.</p>	<p><i>Benefits-</i></p> <p><u>Personal-</u> Same as C.</p> <p><u>Community/Social-</u> Same as C.</p> <p><u>Environmental-</u> Same as B.</p>
Dispersed camping would be allowed.	Camping and campfires would not be allowed.	Dispersed camping would be allowed. If resource damage is demonstrated, primitive campsites would be developed. ¹	Primitive camping would be allowed in designated areas. ² If resource damage is documented, developed campsites would be made.
No management actions planned.	Minimal directional and informational signs would be installed at established routes.**	BLM would prepare an activity and site development plan to explore opportunities in locating appropriate sites to develop visitor facilities. This plan would include possibilities to install, develop, and maintain toilets, shade shelters, information kiosks, trail markers, and picnic sites.**	

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (Continued)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No management actions planned.		BLM would prepare an activity and site development plan to explore opportunities in locating an appropriate site to install, staff, and maintain a Visitor Contact Station within or adjacent to PTNM to house interpretive exhibits and to use for interpretive programs (multi-purpose use).*	BLM would prepare an activity and site development plan to explore opportunities in locating an appropriate site to build, staff, and maintain a visitor center within or adjacent to PTNM housing specimens and interpretive exhibits.*
No management actions planned.		BLM would prepare an activity plan to identify opportunities for a trail system for recreational opportunities (bike, OHV, hiking, etc.). *	
Except as provided under current law, regulation and policy, there would be no restrictions on the discharge of firearms (see Map 2-1 and 2-2).		Recreational target shooting would be prohibited (see Maps 2-3 and 2-4).	
Commercial, competitive and organized group activities would be authorized per 43 CFR Part 2930, Special Recreation Permits.	The PTNM would be CLOSED to Special Recreation Permits.	<p>The BLM would authorize commercial, competitive, and organized group activities on a discretionary, case-by-case basis per 43 CFR Part 2930, Special Recreation Permits, and in compliance with NEPA.</p> <p>SRPs for OHV events would be limited by the following requirements, or other restrictions that provide for the protection of fossil resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would not degrade fossil resources; • No more than 3 permitted OHV events per year (first-come, first-served, no multiple year events permits would be considered); • No permits would be issued for OHV events lasting for more than 4 consecutive days. • No more frequently than 1 every 3 months; • No more than 250 vehicles per event; • No more than 20 vehicles per “run”; • No more than 2 “runs” per trail route would be authorized during each event; • Only Registered Event vehicles (including event support and BLM staff vehicles) would be allowed on the routes, during the event. 	

RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Continue to allow casual collecting of rock and mineral resources throughout the Monument.	Closed to casual collecting of rock and mineral resources.	<p>Closed to casual collecting of rock and mineral resources.</p> <p>Limited collecting of rock and mineral resources would be allowed only in conjunction with BLM authorized education and interpretation activities. Use of small hand tools would not be allowed.</p>	Allow casual collecting of rock and mineral resources throughout the Monument.
<p>NOTES:</p> <p>¹ To deter resource damage, the BLM would sign sensitive areas as “no camping,” reduce evidence of inappropriate camping and educate visitors to use Leave No Trace principles. However, if the Monument Monitoring Plan demonstrates impacts to Monument resources, objects, and values from dispersed camping, a primitive campground and designated camping areas would be established within, or on lands adjacent to, the Monument. Monitoring criteria that would establish the need for a primitive campground include: campsites and fires near or on sensitive paleontological sites, large campsites damaging vegetation and/or game trails, and camping on routes. If a primitive campground is established, campfires would be limited to designated campsites with campfire rings.</p> <p>² If the Monument Monitoring Plan demonstrates that Primitive Campsites are impacting Monument resources, objects, and values, a more developed campground would be established, along with designated primitive camping areas that would be established within, or on lands adjacent to, the Monument. Factors monitored to determine the need for a developed campground include: the need to manage human waste and trash, reduce impacts from high use camping areas, or the need to manage and provide for visitor parking. If a campground is established, campfires would be limited to designated campsites with campfire rings.</p>			

* These are Implementation Level Decisions to be carried out in the future after subsequent implementation planning and analysis.

**These are Implementation Level Decisions that are being made concurrent with this planning effort, and are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

2.4.4 TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT

GOAL 1: Designate and manage areas in the Monument to the appropriate level of motorized and mechanized vehicle use so that fossils are protected. Areas must be classified as *open*, *limited*, or *closed* for motorized travel activities.

OBJECTIVE 1: Develop a Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management (CTTM) Plan to identify and designate routes within the Monument according to type and condition of use (Appendix C).

OBJECTIVE 2: Determine appropriate level of maintenance for mechanized or motorized access to the Monument.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- The portion of the Robledo Mountains WSA located within the Monument would be CLOSED to motorized and mechanized use.
- Exceptions to OHV travel restrictions or closures may be authorized for any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes, and any vehicle in official use or expressly authorized in writing by the authorized officer.
- Where off-road vehicles are causing or would cause considerable adverse effects upon soil, vegetation, wildlife, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, historical resources, threatened or endangered species, wilderness suitability, other authorized uses, or other resources, the affected areas shall be immediately closed to the type(s) of vehicle causing the adverse effect until they are eliminated and measures implemented to prevent recurrence (43 CFR §8341.2). The Monument Monitoring Plan would track changes to fossil resources based on trails and travel management actions. Based on the findings of the CTTM (Appendix C), implementation-level closures to certain routes are proposed across the various alternatives. Any future closures would be additional implementation-level decisions.**
- Dispersed pedestrian recreation would be allowed.
- The Monument would be open to equestrian use.
- As defined by BLM Manual 1626, OPEN areas are permitted year-long to motorized vehicle travel; LIMITED areas are subject to restrictions and travel is within specified areas or on designated routes, roads, vehicle ways, or trails. CLOSED areas are those where motorized vehicle travel is prohibited.

TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT (Continued)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Motorized and mechanized travel is LIMITED (5,255 acres) to those routes designated by the <i>Mimbres RMP</i>, Robledo Mountains Off-Highway Vehicle Trails Plan, and the Doña Ana County Mountain Bike Trails (SST Trail).</p> <p>A total of 37.6 miles of routes would be available for motorized or mechanized use.**</p> <p>Approximately 32.3 miles of OHV recreational opportunity within the PTNM are open year-round for motorized use (see Map 2-1).**</p>	<p>The PTNM would be CLOSED (5,255 acres) to recreational use by motorized and mechanized vehicles. The BLM would issue supplementary rules for enforcement purposes in the future following the requirements in 43 CFR 8365.1-6.</p> <p>A total of 0 miles of routes would be available for motorized or mechanized use.**</p> <p>All routes would be CLOSED to recreational motorized and mechanized use to protect fossil resources from the impacts of motorized or mechanized vehicles (see Map 2-2).**</p>	<p>Motorized and mechanized travel would be LIMITED (5,255 acres) to designated routes (Appendix C). Recreational use by motorized and mechanized vehicles (not associated with a permitted event) would require a no-fee Day Use Pass. These passes, along with maps and resource protection information, would be available online and at the local BLM office.</p> <p>A total of 33.2 miles of current routes would be available for motorized or mechanized use.**</p> <p>A total of 4.9 miles of previously designated OHV routes would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use to protect fossil resources from their impacts (see Map 2-3):**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabasco Twister OHV Route- 2.7 miles • Patzcuaro's Revenge OHV Route- 1.8 miles • Cayenne Crawler- 0.4 miles 	<p>Motorized and mechanized travel would be LIMITED (5,255 acres) to designated routes (Appendix C).</p> <p>A total of 33.6 miles of current routes would be available for motorized or mechanized use.**</p> <p>A total of 3.5 miles of previously designated routes would be closed to motorized and mechanized vehicle use to protect fossil resources from their impacts (see Map 2-4):**</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tabasco Twister OHV Route- 2.7 miles • Patzcuaro's Revenge OHV Route- 0.8 miles

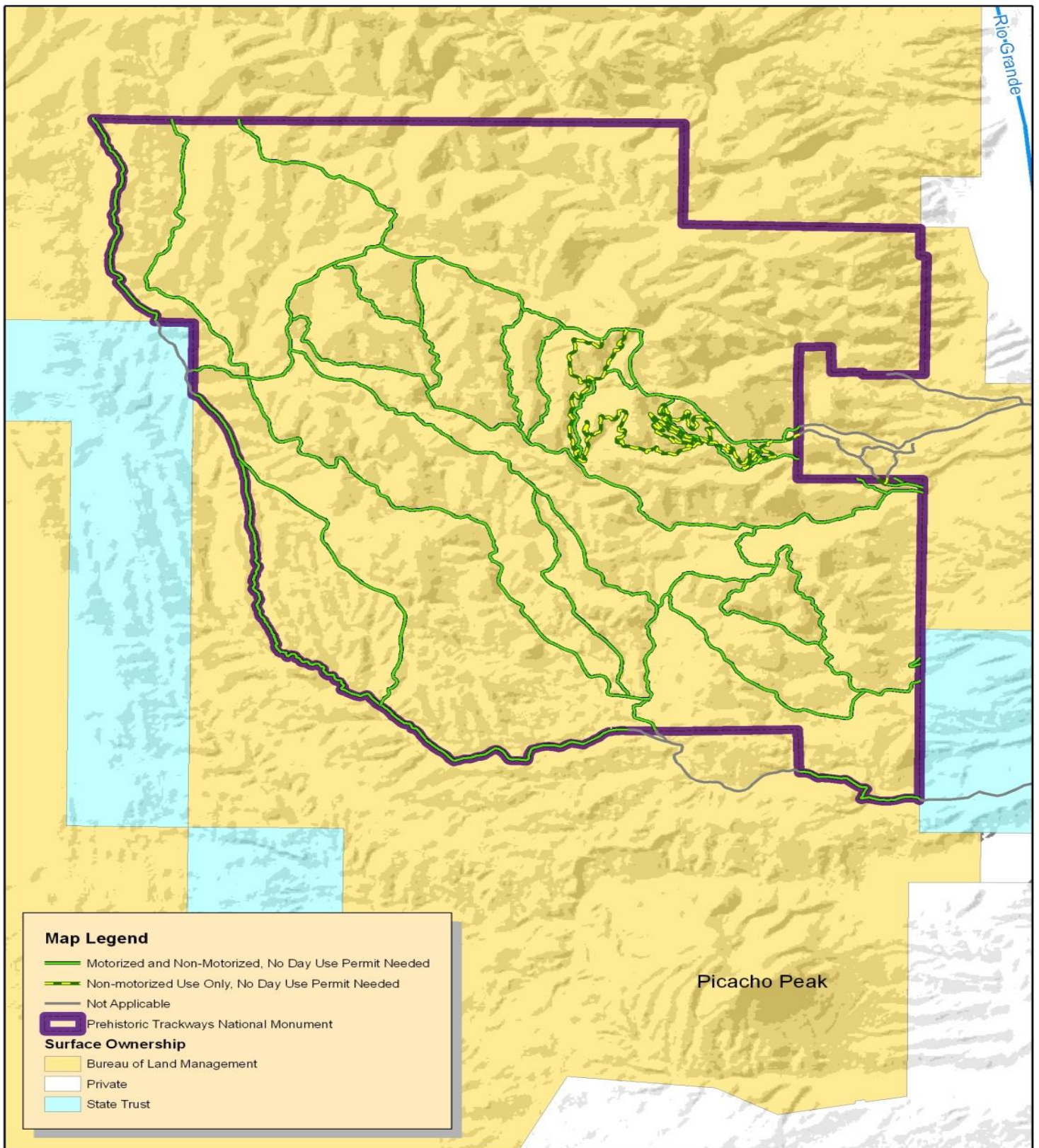
TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT (Continued)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
		<p>The following route would also be closed to any designated use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un-named Route- 0.5 miles 	<p>Cayenne Crawler would remain open, but would be modified from an uphill only route to a downhill only route. This would allow OHV use on Cayenne Crawler that leads into the remaining open portion of Patzcuaro's Revenge OHV Route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Un-named Route Same as Alternative C.
The PTNM would be LIMITED to designated routes for recreational use by mechanized vehicles. The SST Mountain Bike Trail is open for year-round mechanized and non-motorized use (see Map 2-1).	The PTNM would be CLOSED to recreational use by mechanized vehicles (See Map 2-2).	Same as Alternative A (see Map 2-3).	Same as Alternative A (see Map 2-4).
No management action planned.	Routes would not be maintained or improved.**	Designated routes that do not damage sensitive resources could be maintained or improved as necessary to facilitate designated visitor use.*	

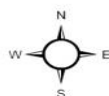
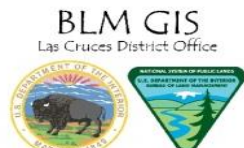
* These are Implementation Level Decisions to be carried out in the future after subsequent implementation planning and analysis.

**These are Implementation Level Decisions that are being made concurrent with this planning effort, and are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Map 2-1 - Trails & Travel Management, Alternative A



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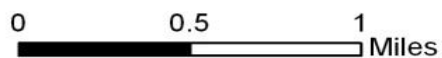
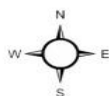
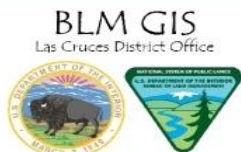
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Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

Map 2-2 - Trails & Travel Management, Alternative B

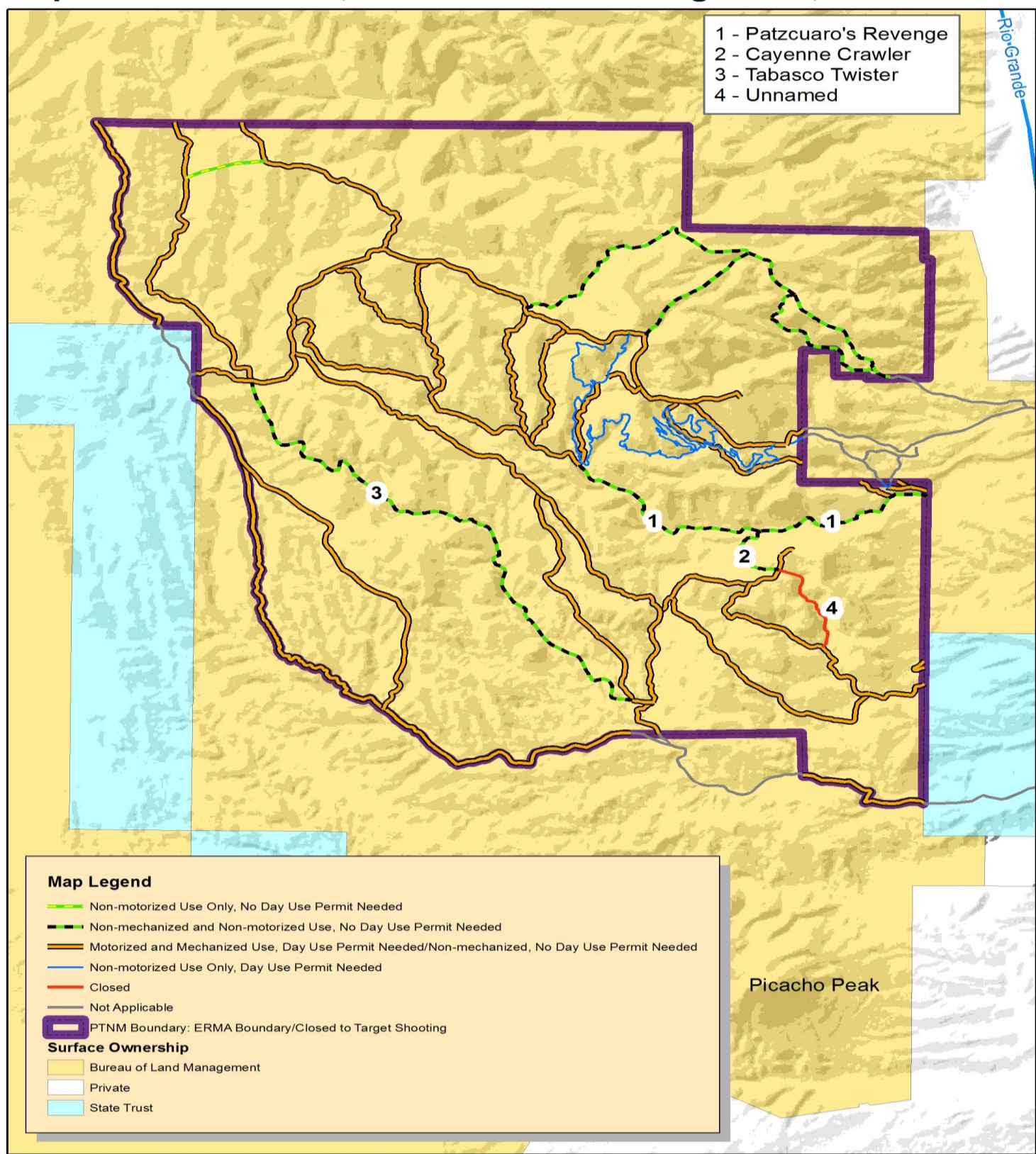


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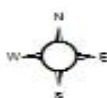
Map 2-3 - Recreation, Trails & Travel Management, Alternative C



Map 2-4 - Recreation, Trails & Travel Management, Alternative D



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Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

2.4.5 AIR RESOURCES

GOAL 1: Manage uses to maintain Federal, State and local air quality standards.

OBJECTIVE 1: Manage activities on public land to maintain air quality consistent with the Clean Air Act and FLPMA.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

Prevent and reduce air quality impacts from authorized activities on public land by implementing mitigation measures developed on a case-by-case basis, described in Appendix E. These processes would be applicable to all BLM authorized activities.



2.4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL 1: Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure they are available for use by present and future generations consistent with the BLM cultural resources program and appropriate to the goals of the PTNM.

GOAL 2: Reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses consistent with the BLM cultural resources program and appropriate to the goals of the PTNM.

OBJECTIVE 1: Recognize potential public and scientific uses of cultural resources within the Monument, managing them in such a manner that these values and uses are appropriately protected.

OBJECTIVE 2: Protect and preserve in place representative examples of the full complement of cultural resources that may exist within the Monument.

OBJECTIVE 3: Ensure that proposed land uses avoid inadvertent damage to cultural resources on Federal, State, and non-Federal lands.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Cultural resource inventories would be done in response to specific land-use proposals in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- Should at a later time a Native American entity express concern about a specific place or resource, the BLM will consult accordingly.
- The BLM would comply with Section 106 of the NHPA through the National Programmatic Agreement and the Protocol Agreement between New Mexico BLM and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Historic properties, i.e., sites determined eligible for or included on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), are allocated to uses subject to management actions. The six use allocations include: (1) scientific use, (2) conservation for future use; (3) traditional use; (4) public use; (5) experimental use; and (6) discharged from management.	Allocate historic properties to either scientific use or discharge from management. The latter are sites that have been determined to be not eligible or no longer eligible for the NRHP; therefore no longer constituting a historic property requiring a management action.		

2.4.7 LANDS AND REALTY

GOAL 1: Manage the acquisition of lands or interests therein to meet the mandates of the Monument Legislation.

GOAL 2: Manage rights-of-way and land use authorizations within the Monument to meet the needs of the BLM and Monument Legislation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Retain all public land within the PTNM in Federal ownership.

OBJECTIVE 2: Acquire the mineral estate within the boundaries of the Monument to further protect the overall purposes of the Monument.

OBJECTIVE 3: Maintain a right-of-way and land use authorization system to meet resource management needs.

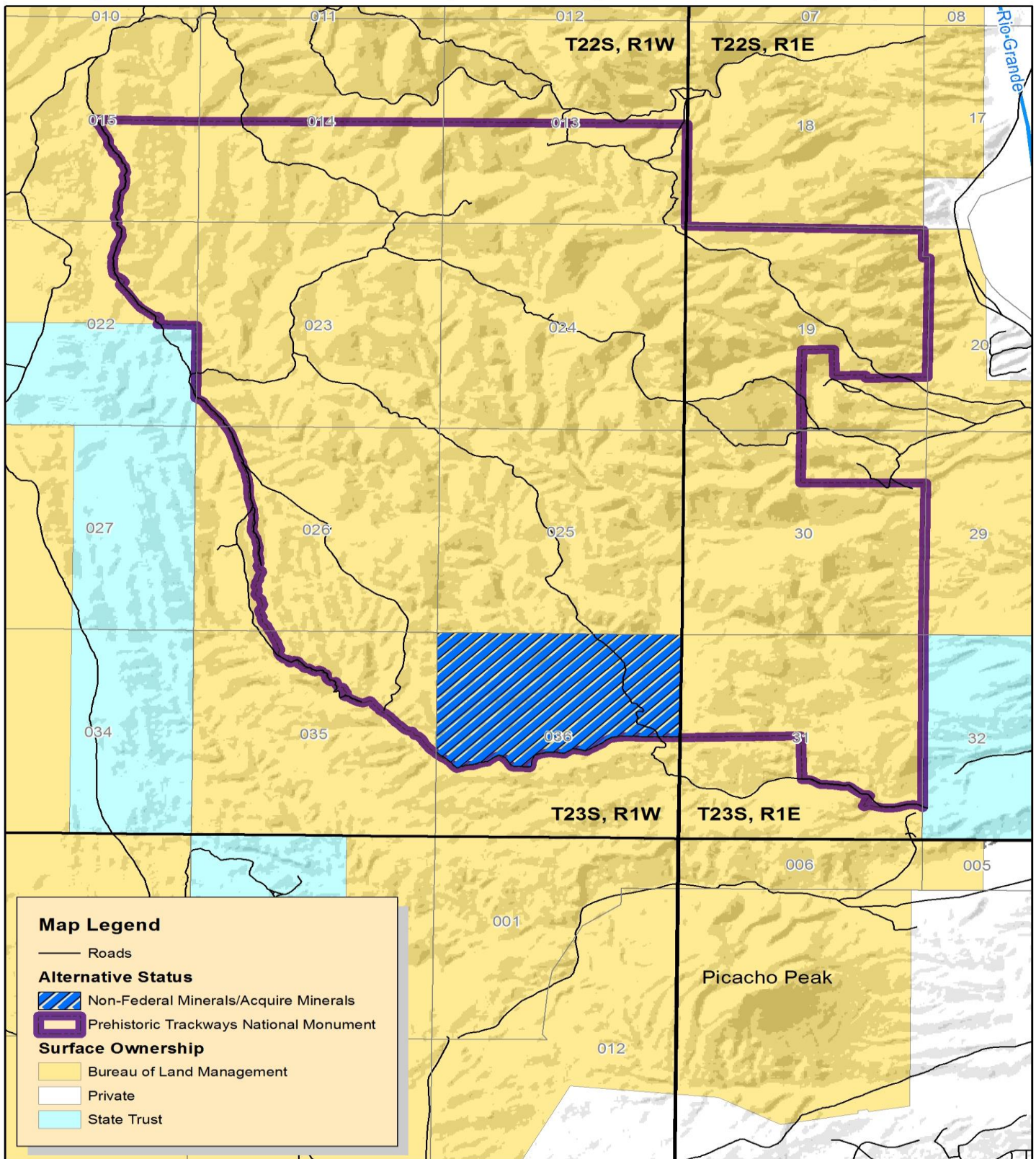
MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Federal land within the PTNM is withdrawn from entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws. Federal land is not open to disposal through land exchange, land sales, State grants, Recreation and Public Purpose Act leases or sales, desert land entries, Indian allotments or commercial or agricultural leases (Appendix A).
- Public land within the PTNM would continue to be classified for retention under Section 7 of the Taylor Grazing Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 315f).
- If additional lands and minerals are added to the Monument at a later date, these lands would be managed in accordance with the management decisions made in this RMP/EIS.
- The BLM would attempt to acquire access easements for public use from private landowners. Easements would be acquired only from willing sellers and would be in accordance with the provisions of Section 205 of FLPMA.
- Non-Federal mineral estate would be acquired only from a willing seller. Acquisition of the mineral estate would be in accordance with the provisions of Section 205 of FLPMA.
- The PTNM would be excluded from commercial communication site, transmission line, solar, and wind energy rights-of-way (ROWs).
- Realty actions such as rights-of-way or land use authorizations would be allowed within the Monument that are compatible with the values identified in the PTNM, while respecting existing uses. New uses will be in accordance with the provisions of TITLE III and TITLE V of FLPMA.
- Retain all public land.

LANDS AND REALTY (Concluded)

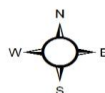
ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No existing acquisition management decisions. Retain all public land.	Acquire approximately 640 acres of all non-Federal mineral estate within and adjacent to the Monument in sec. 36, T. 23 S., R. 1 W. (See Map 2-5). Retain all public land.		
<p>Exclude authorizations for new ROWs, except when mandated by law.</p> <p>Access routes can be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Existing ROWs within exclusion areas are recognized as grandfathered and operation, maintenance, and renewal of these facilities would be allowed to continue within the scope of the ROW grant.</p>	<p>Surface disturbing land use activities would not be authorized except for scientific research.</p> <p>Non-surface disturbing activities (for example-non-surface disturbing film permits) could be authorized on a case-by-case.</p>	<p>Exclude new ROW authorizations, except when uses of the ROWs would further the purposes for which the Monument was established or when mandated by law.</p> <p>Access routes can be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Existing ROWs within exclusion areas are recognized as grandfathered and operation, maintenance, and renewal of these facilities would be allowed to continue within the scope of the ROW grant.</p> <p>Surface and non-surface disturbing activities would be authorized on a case-by-case basis.</p>	

Map 2-5 - Minerals Acquisition, Alternatives B, C & D



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BLM GIS
Las Cruces District Office



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Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

2.4.8 LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

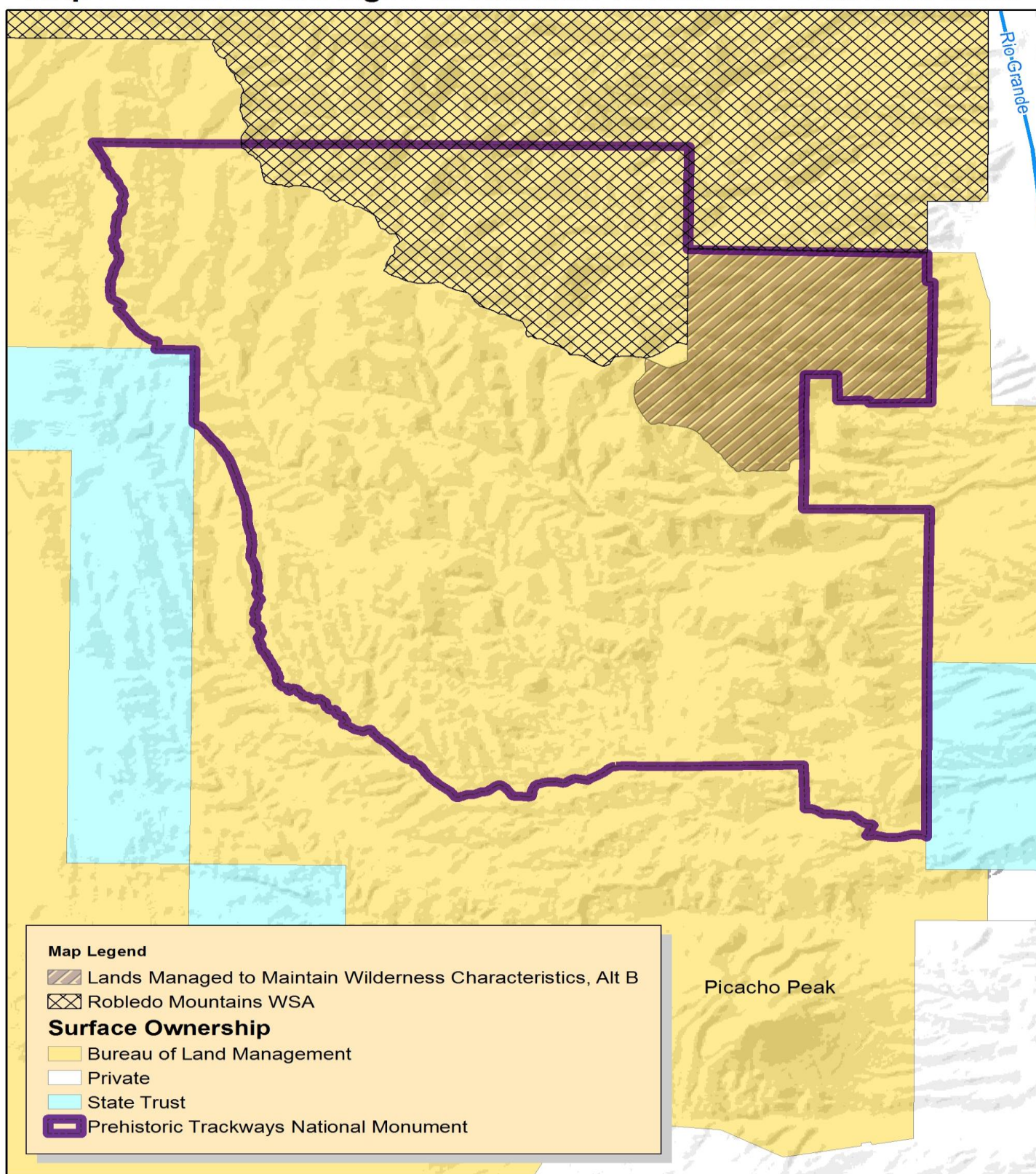
GOAL 1: For lands with wilderness characteristics identified for protection in the RMP, maintain wilderness characteristics by preventing incompatible activities.

GOAL 2: For lands with wilderness characteristics not identified for protection in the RMP, allow for activities that do not conform to the maintenance of wilderness characteristics while minimizing the impacts of the activity to the extent possible.

OBJECTIVE 1: Manage surface disturbing activities such that the natural quality of lands with wilderness characteristics identified for protection is maintained.

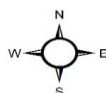
ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
No similar action.	<p>Manage the 576 acres (located in sec. 19, T. 22 S., R. 1 E. and sec. 24, T. 22 S., R. 1 W, see Map 2-6) that is contiguous with the Robledo Mountains WSA to maintain wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Management will follow these prescriptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibit all surface disturbing activities except those associated with permitted scientific exploration and emergencies.• Manage as an exclusion area for rights-of-way.• Manage as a Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class I.• Close to motorized and mechanized vehicles.• No new trails or interpretation signage will be constructed within the area.	<p>Manage the 253 acres (located in sec. 19, T. 22 S., R. 1 E., see Map 2-7) that is contiguous with the Robledo Mountains WSA to maintain wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Management prescriptions are the same as Alternative B.</p>	<p>Do not manage for the 576 acres found to have wilderness characteristics (located in sec. 19, T. 22 S., R. 1 E. and sec. 24, T. 22 S., R. 1 W.).</p>

Map 2-6 - Lands Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics



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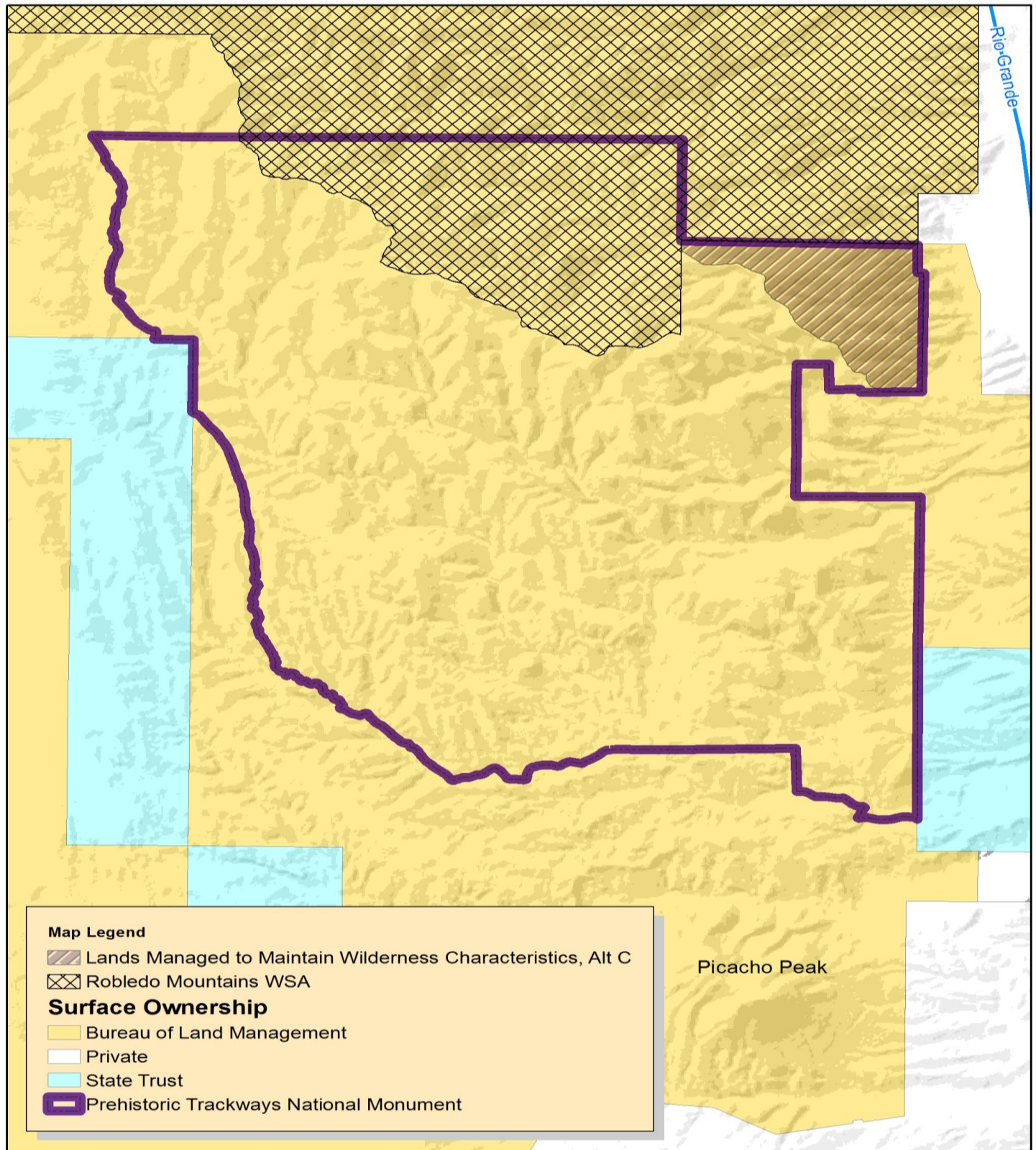
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Las Cruces District Office



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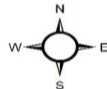
Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

Map 2-7 - Lands Managed to Maintain Wilderness Characteristics



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BLM GIS
Las Cruces District Office



0 0.5 1 Miles

Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

2.4.9 LIVESTOCK GRAZING

GOAL 1: Manage livestock grazing on public land in a manner that ensures progress toward achieving the *New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (BLM 2001). The Standards for Public Land Health are consistent with protecting the resources, objects and values for which the Monument was designated.

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain quality and quantity of key forage and browse species for use by livestock and wildlife through continued implementation of appropriate grazing systems and management practices.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Continue monitoring range health and productivity within the National Monument to ensure standards for public land health are being achieved.
- Existing range improvements would continue to be maintained.
- New range improvements would not be authorized in the Robledo Mountains WSA.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Grazing for the Picacho Peak Allotment would continue under a deferred rotation system in accordance with the allotment management plan, as amended May 1997.</p> <p>Grazing use would continue to be authorized on the Altamira Allotment.</p>	<p>Grazing would be excluded from the PTNM.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing would be allowed when consistent with applicable laws and regulations and with protection of the Monument objects.</p> <p>Develop a Monument Monitoring Plan within 2 years of the signing of the PTNM RMP Record of Decision. If monitoring indicates fossil resources or other Monument objects require protection from livestock, adjust the allotment management plan to exclude grazing from specific sites.*</p> <p>Adjustments could be made to the allotment management plan, in consultation with the permittee, to change grazing systems, number of livestock and season of use as needed.*</p>	<p>Same as Alternative A.</p> <p>Develop a Monument Monitoring Plan within 2 years of the signing of the PTNM RMP Record of Decision that would track changes to fossil resources based on livestock management actions.</p>

*These are Implementation Level Decisions.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Existing rangeland improvements would continue to be maintained by the entity assigned maintenance responsibility for livestock and wildlife use.</p> <p>A benefit-cost analysis would be used to help set improvement priorities on all new rangeland improvements.</p> <p>Rangeland improvements and vegetation treatments would be implemented to improve or maintain forage production and range condition.</p>	<p>Existing rangeland improvements would be maintained by the BLM based on need and would be dependent on water availability.</p> <p>No new rangeland improvements would be authorized on public land within the PTNM.</p>	<p>Existing rangeland improvements would continue to be maintained by the assigned entity for livestock and wildlife use.</p> <p>Implement new rangeland improvements as needed within the Monument to facilitate livestock management and minimize conflicts with other uses and management objectives.</p>	
<p>Grazing treatments would be incorporated into activity plans to meet management objectives and goals established for each individual allotment.</p>	<p>Forage increases as a result of grassland restoration treatments would be reserved for watershed function.</p>	<p>Forage increases as a result of grassland restoration treatments would first be reserved to meet the needs for watershed function. Forage in excess of those needs would be allocated to wildlife and livestock with wildlife receiving priority over livestock.</p>	<p>All forage increases as a result of grassland restoration treatments would be allocated to wildlife and livestock, with neither having priority over the other.</p>

* These are Implementation Level Decisions to be carried out in the future after subsequent implementation planning and analysis.

2.4.10 SOILS

GOAL 1: Meet or move toward upland health standards consistent with the *New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (BLM 2001) to protect and restore natural ecosystems and the fossil resources.

OBJECTIVE 1: Maintain and restore watersheds through enhanced soil stability and productivity, increased soil moisture, decreased erosion, and thriving desired vegetation communities.

OBJECTIVE 2: Stabilize soils and hydrologic processes by maintaining appropriate amounts of standing live vegetation and protective litter or rock cover, and minimize surface disturbances.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Soils would be managed to meet the *New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (BLM 2001).
- Develop a Monument Monitoring Plan within 2 years of the signing of the PTNM RMP Record of Decision that would track changes to fossil resources based on soil management actions.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Control soil erosion, sediment movement, and salt contamination as a priority management goal. Minimize surface disturbance from construction projects. Close and rehabilitate unneeded roads. Control off-road vehicle use in critical areas.	Manage soil resources and areas needing restoration using only passive methods to meet the soil and hydrologic functions of the potential natural community or capability of the ecological site.	Manage soil resources and areas needing restoration using both passive and active methods, with an emphasis on non-structural approaches whenever possible, to increase the site stability and the hydrologic function to the capability of the ecological site.	Manage soil resources and areas needing restoration using any acceptable management practices to meet the ecological site capability for soil and site stability and the hydrologic function to the capability of the ecological site.
Nonpoint source pollutants in watersheds and areas with critical to severe erosion would be a major focus.	Passive methods would focus on prohibiting surface disturbing activities that would result in unnatural degradation of soil resources and allow soil recovery and production to occur through natural processes. Passive methods could include, but not be limited to, removing grazing, closing roads and trails, and prohibiting actions requiring heavy machinery.	Passive methods identified in Alternative B would be the same under this alternative. Active methods would include maintenance and rehabilitation of soil resources through actions such as construction of water-bars, dikes, drop-structures, re-contouring, and seeding.	
Project level planning would consider the sensitivity of watershed resources in the affected area on a site-specific basis.			

SOILS (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Critical soils on 0-10 percent slopes would be the priority for treatments and grazing management to reduce erosion and improve water quality	No management action planned.	Stabilize and rehabilitate areas where accelerated erosion, runoff, and physical or chemical degradation have resulted in unacceptable soil conditions through the use of non-structural approaches whenever possible.	Stabilize and rehabilitate areas where accelerated erosion, runoff, and physical or chemical degradation have resulted in unacceptable soil conditions through the use of any acceptable practice.
No management action planned.	Prohibit surface disturbing activities and uses in areas containing high potential for soil erosion and storm water runoff.	Prohibit new surface disturbing activities for areas that contain a high potential for soil erosion and storm water runoff, except for activities required to meet resource goals and objectives, provided impacts could be fully mitigated.	Allow surface disturbing activities and uses with proper mitigation in areas containing high potential for soil erosion and storm water runoff.

2.4.11 SPECIAL DESIGNATION- ROBLEDO MOUNTAINS ACEC

GOAL 1: Designate and manage areas that have special values, meet the relevance and importance criteria, and require special management to prevent risk of loss of or damage to those values.

OBJECTIVE 1: Manage ACECs where relevance and importance criteria are met and special management is required to protect the identified values.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Carry forward the Robledo Mountains ACEC designation in order to protect biological, cultural, and scenic values and to protect, research, and interpret paleontological values, consistent with Section 2014(d)(1)(B) of the *Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*, which states that “[t]he establishment of the Monument shall not change the management status of any area within the boundary of the Monument that is...managed as an area of critical environmental concern.”

Management will follow these prescriptions:

- Retain all public land.
- Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails.
- Exclude authorizations for new rights-of-way.
- Withdraw from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws.
- Withdraw from the mineral leasing laws, geothermal leasing laws, and mineral materials laws.
- Acquire legal public access.
- Maintain current livestock grazing practices.
- Allow natural fires to burn under prescribed conditions.
- Manage for primitive and semi-primitive recreation opportunities (no developed facilities).
- Manage as VRM Class I.

2.4.12 SPECIAL DESIGNATION- ROBLEDO MOUNTAINS WSA

GOAL 1: Manage areas that have special values to prevent risk of loss or damage to those characteristics and values.

OBJECTIVE 1: Protect naturalness; outstanding opportunities for primitive, unconfined recreation; and outstanding opportunities for solitude.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Recreation opportunities within the Robledo Mountains WSA portion of the Monument would remain primitive with no motorized or mechanized vehicle traffic in order to preserve the wilderness characteristics. The WSA would be managed in accordance with the *Management of Wilderness Study Areas Manual 6330 and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review*.

2.4.13 SPECIAL DESIGNATION-PALEOZOIC TRACKWAYS RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA)

GOAL 1: Manage the fossil resources within the Paleozoic Trackways RNA to prevent loss or damage.

OBJECTIVE 1: Manage the resources according to the Legislation designating the Monument, *The Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009*, which is to protect, research, and interpret paleontological resources.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
<p>Manage the Paleozoic Trackways RNA to protect and allow research and interpretation of the fossils (see Map 3-6):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain public land; acquire State land inholdings through exchange or purchase. • Limit vehicle use to designated roads and trails. • Exclude new rights-of-way. • Access routes will be limited and considered on a case-by-case basis. • Withdraw from location, entry, and patent under the mining laws. • Withdraw from operation of the mineral leasing laws, geothermal leasing laws, and mineral materials laws. • Manage and interpret in accordance with Trackways study legislation. • Manage as VRM Class II 	<p>The Paleozoic Trackways RNA designation would be discontinued for all land within the Monument boundary. The resources would be managed according to the Legislation and the management actions determined in the <i>Prehistoric Trackways RMP</i>.</p>		

2.4.14 SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

GOAL 1: Manage public land to maintain, restore, improve or enhance habitats that lead to the recovery of Federally-listed species populations and preclude the need for listing proposed, candidate, State protected or sensitive species.

OBJECTIVE 1: Over the life of this RMP, achieve “*no net loss*” of special status species habitats by maintaining, restoring, and improving special status species habitat.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

The BLM would ensure that appropriate management, protections, and mitigations would be developed and applied by continuing to monitor and inventory special status species and their habitats throughout the Monument. Any future proposed surface disturbing activities would require surveys for special status species and appropriate mitigation.



Texas Horned Lizard

2.4.15 VEGETATION

GOAL 1: Manage vegetation resources to produce healthy and vigorous native plant communities with an abundance and distribution of vegetative density and diversity within the PTNM.

OBJECTIVE 1: Provide a mosaic of vegetative communities through protection and restoration of vegetation resources to protect soils, watersheds, air quality, wildlife and scenic views.

OBJECTIVE 2: Monitor for the potential introduction and spread of noxious weeds within the Monument and manage any noxious weeds and native invasive species.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- The Monument would be closed to commercial and recreational plant collecting. The BLM would retain plant/seed collecting authority for administrative purposes (e.g., Seeds of Success).
- Vegetation treatments would be in compliance with the 2007 Record of Decision for the *Vegetation Treatments on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*.
- The BLM would develop a Monument Monitoring Plan that would track changes to fossil resources based on vegetation management actions.
- Where restoration, rehabilitation, or reclamation efforts require reseeding activities, or use of other plant materials (such as potted plants, poles, etc.), non-native plant species would be used only if native species are not readily available in sufficient quantities. Care would be taken in selecting non-native species that are not likely to become invasive. If non-native plant species are used or identified for use in restoration, rehabilitation, or reclamation projects, the BLM would identify and develop native replacements for the non-native species. Additionally, seed mixes used in these actions would use the closest locally adapted selections, varieties, or cultivars of native species available to improve success of the seeding effort (Executive Order 13112, BLM Manual 1745, and subject to future revisions to Bureau policy and guidance).

VEGETATION (Concluded)

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Creosotebush, mesquite, and other desert shrubs (<10% slope) would be treated almost entirely by the use of herbicides. Areas over 10% slope, within ½-mile of a perennial stream, or within a ¼-mile of a dwelling and vegetation containing vacant or occupied raptor nests would not be treated with herbicide.	<p>Manage vegetation communities and areas needing restoration using passive methods to meet the ecological site potential, natural community, or capability (degree to-which the kind, proportions, and amounts of plants in the ecological community resemble the potential natural community based on the area's disturbance history).</p> <p>Passive methods allow the vegetation resource to naturally regenerate over time without taking direct action.</p>	Manage vegetation communities and areas needing restoration using passive and active treatments to increase native vegetation to the capability of the site. Active methods include activities designed to enhance or improve the vegetation resource, including mechanical, cultural, biological or chemical restoration practices.	Manage vegetation communities and areas needing restoration using passive and active restoration to meet the ecological site capability.
No management action planned.	<p>Manage transitioning areas and other stable-state areas for a desired state and condition to meet ecological site potential.</p> <p>An emphasis would be on enhancing habitat for special status species.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Manage for multiple-use values while maintaining or enhancing habitat for special status species.</p>	<p>Same as Alternative B.</p> <p>Emphasize commodity uses while maintaining or enhancing habitat for special status species.</p>
Chemical herbicides would be used to control noxious weeds.	Use integrated management techniques including passive, manual, and biological treatment methods to manage noxious weeds and non-native invasive species.	Same as Alternative B but with the additional use of chemical and mechanical treatments.	Same as Alternative C but with the additional use of fire.

2.4.16 VISUAL AND SCENIC RESOURCES

GOAL 1: To manage Federal land in a manner that maintains the scenic values.

OBJECTIVE 1: Ensure that activities and land uses are consistent with, and meet, VRM Class objectives.

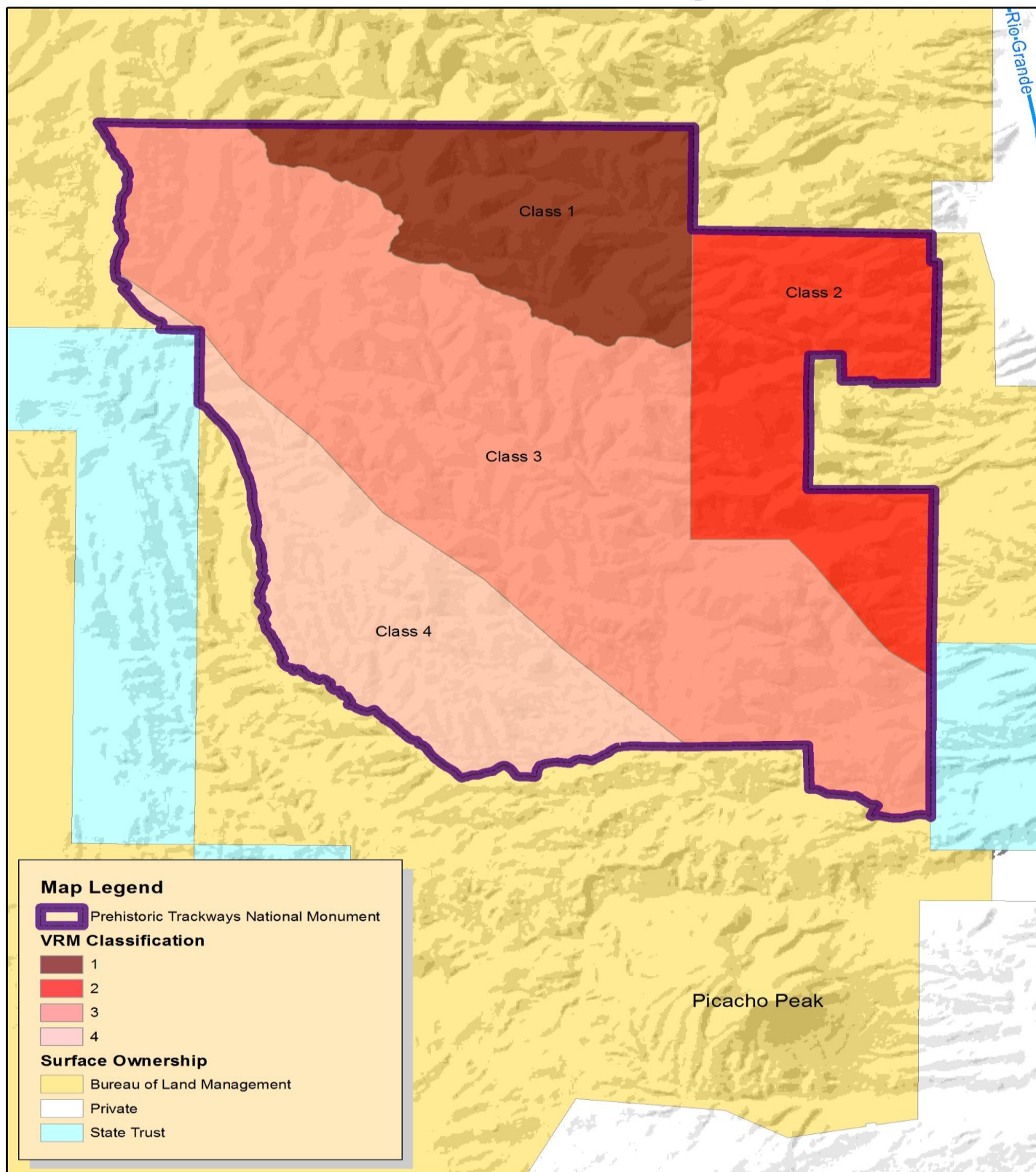
MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

WSAs, until such time as these areas are designated as wilderness or released for other uses by Congress, will be managed as VRM Class I (*BLM IM 2000-096*).

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
PTNM has four VRM Classes: VRM Class I: 789 acres VRM Class II: 907 acres VRM Class III: 2,627 acres VRM Class IV: 932 acres See Map 2-8.	PTNM would be classified in the following VRM Classes: Class I: 1,365 acres Class II: 3,912 acres See Map 2-9.	PTNM would be classified in the following VRM Classes: Class I: 1,042 acres Class II: 4,213 acres See Map 2-10.	PTNM would be classified in the following VRM Classes: Class I: 789 acres Class II: 4,465 acres See Map 2-11.

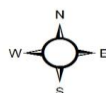


Map 2-8 - Visual Resource Management, Alt A



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.

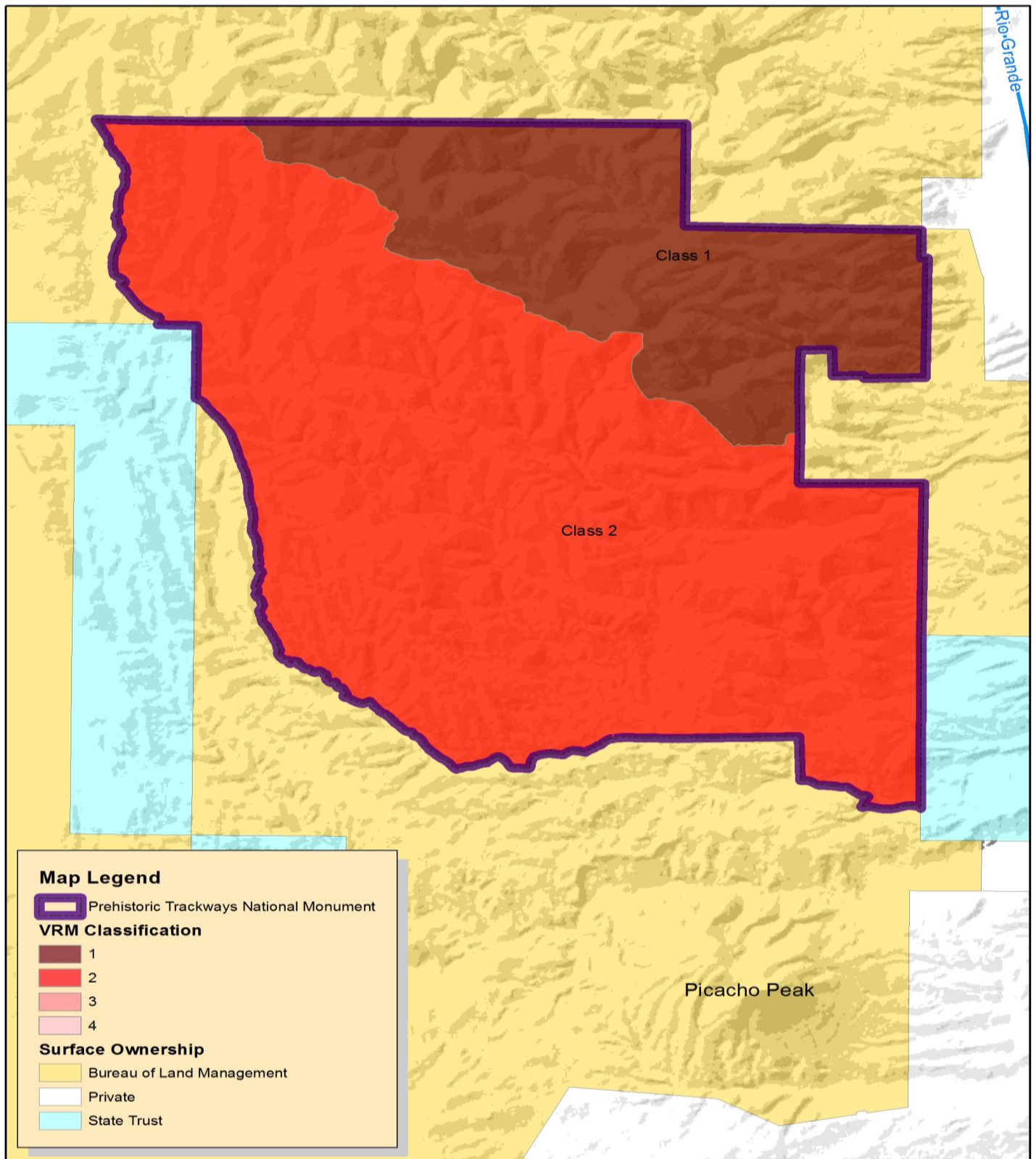
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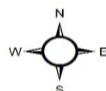
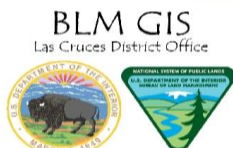
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Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

Map 2-9 - Visual Resource Management, Alt B



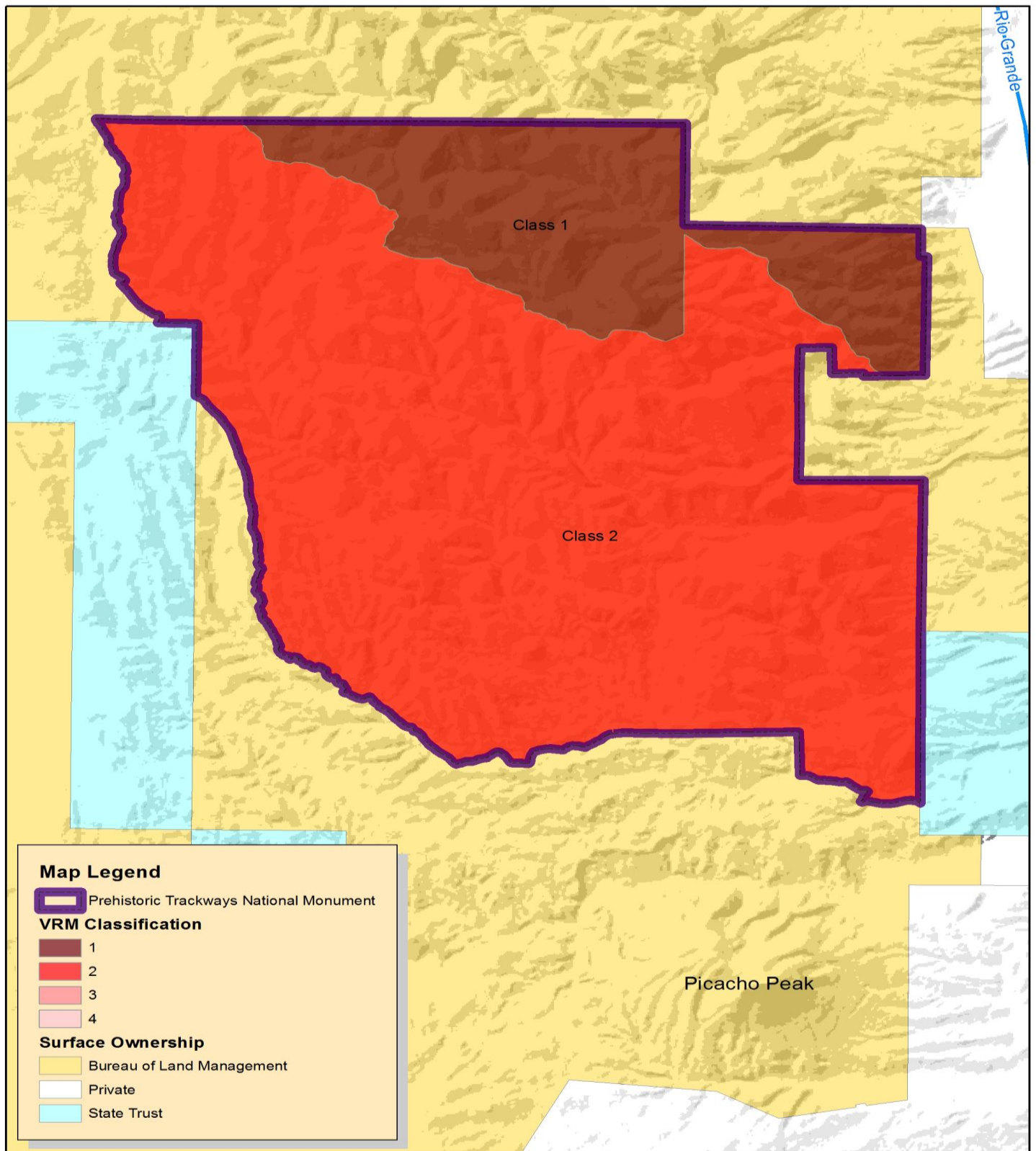
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.



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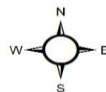
Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

Map 2-10 - Visual Resource Management, Alt C



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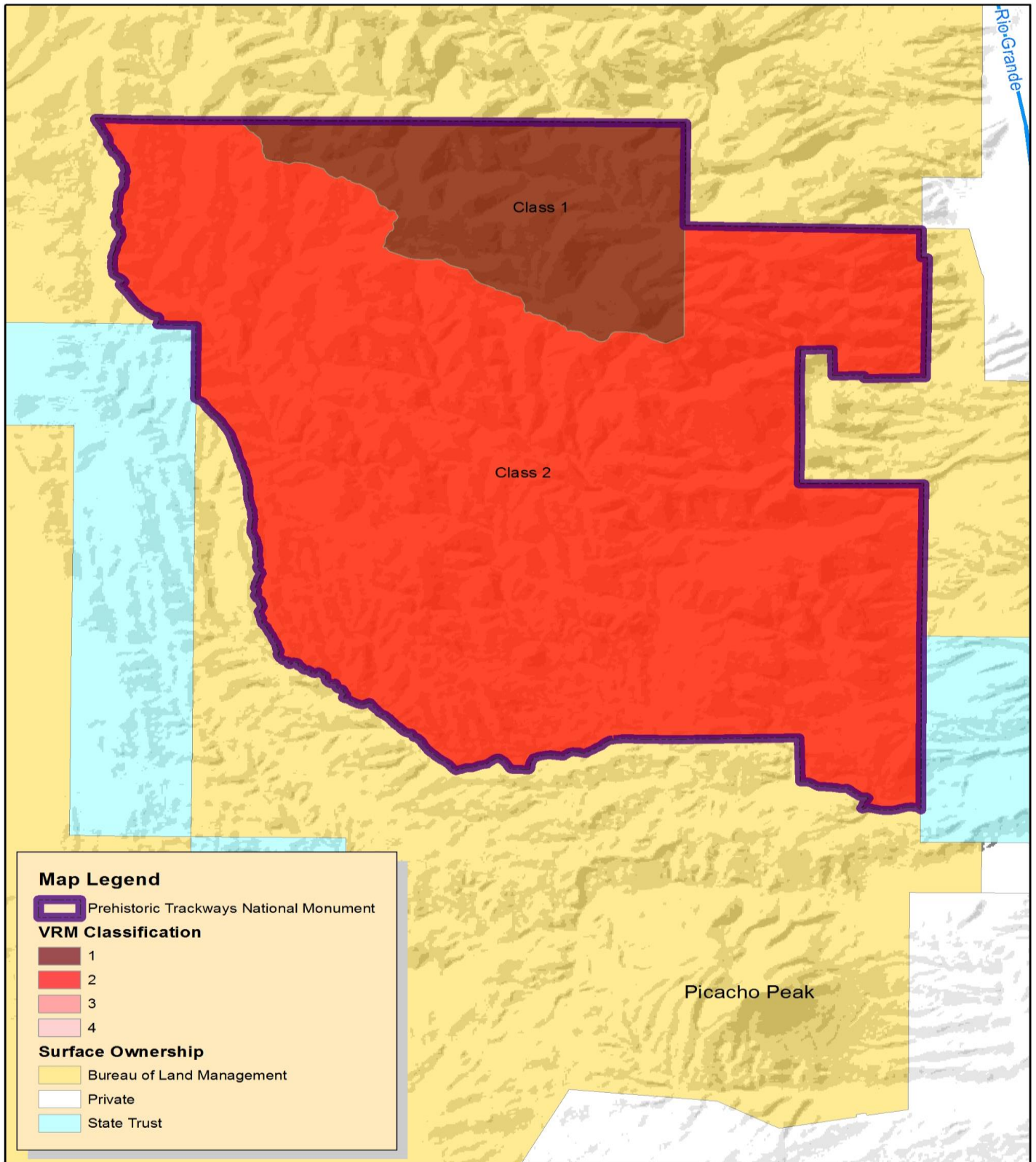
BLM GIS
Las Cruces District Office



0 0.5 1 Miles

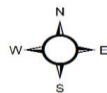
Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

Map 2-11 - Visual Resource Management, Alt D



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by the BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information is subject to change without notification.

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0 0.5 1 Miles

Projection: UTM Zone 13
Datum: NAD 1983

2.4.17 WATER RESOURCES

GOAL 1: Ensure surface and ground water influenced by BLM activities comply with or are making significant progress toward achieving New Mexico water quality standards consistent with the New Mexico Environment Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

OBJECTIVE 1: Fully mitigate any action which may contribute nonpoint source pollutants into the Rio Grande and to protect the State's water resources.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Enter into cooperative management agreements or other instruments with interested parties or agencies, as appropriate, to coordinate and collaborate watershed management of the Monument.
- Consult and coordinate with other Federal, State, and local agencies, as directed by the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001-1009), and the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251).

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Erosion control would continue to be incorporated into all surface disturbing actions.	Prohibit surface disturbing activities on public land within the Rio Grande watershed and areas susceptible to high amounts of erosion, except activities specifically designed for enhancing water quality.	Fully mitigate surface disturbing activities on public land within the Rio Grande watershed and use non-structural approaches whenever possible.	All surface disturbing activities would be allowed provided they do not contribute to the Rio Grande becoming impaired from nonpoint source pollutants. Site-specific mitigation would apply to activities near 303d streams.

2.4.18 WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

GOAL 1: Reduce the risk to human life and property from wildland fire; reduce the risk and cost of fire suppression in areas of hazardous fuels buildup; and improve landscape health through returning fire to its natural role in the ecosystem.

OBJECTIVE 1: Reduce the potential for escaped fire or loss of life or property in surrounding areas.

OBJECTIVE 2: Improve landscape health through treating lands in Fire Regime Condition Classes 2 and 3 to achieve the desired future condition of the landscape of Fire Regime Condition Class 1. Maintain Condition Class 1 where it occurs (see Map 3-11).

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Incorporate current management as outlined in the *Resource Management Plan Amendment for Fire and Fuels Management on Public Lands in New Mexico and Texas* (BLM 2004a).
- Fires would be suppressed and hazardous fuels would be treated in wildland urban interface areas.
- A cultural and paleontological resource advisor would be consulted during a pre-fire season meeting. Aerial drops of fire retardant would avoid Monument resources, objects and values, and water would be the preferred method of suppression.
- Any improvements would be protected from all fire by preplanned defendable space and fire suppression tactics as needed.
- Resources and fire management would be integrated as potential new issues arise or objectives change.
- In Fire Management Units categorized as C or D, natural ignitions (lightning started fires) could be managed for resource benefit (see Map 3-12).
- The BLM would develop a Monument Monitoring Plan within 2 years of the signing of the PTNM RMP Record of Decision that would track changes to fossil resources based on fire management.

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C	ALTERNATIVE D
Management tools such as prescribed fire and mechanical thinning would not be considered for use in the Monument.			The use of prescribed fire and mechanical thinning as management tools based on future needs and future vegetation analysis would be considered for the Monument.

2.4.19 WILDLIFE

GOAL 1: In cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), manage the PTNM to provide sufficient quantity and quality of wildlife habitat and to maintain or enhance wildlife populations and biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE 1: Protect, enhance, and restore native wildlife and wildlife habitats by the following:

- Manage public land to attain the biotic and other standards for public land health in conjunction with the *Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management* (BLM 2001).
- Manage for Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Key Habitats identified in the NMDGF's *Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy* (CWCS).
- Implement BLM activity plans or other Federal, or State plans and wildlife habitat projects consistent with habitat management goals and objectives.
- Manage public land to allow for reintroductions, transplants, and augmentations of native wildlife populations in coordination with the NMDGF or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and consistent with applicable agency policies and habitat and population management plan goals.
- Maintain and restore habitat connectivity in and between public land including breeding, foraging, dispersal, and seasonal use habitats.

MANAGEMENT COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES:

- Implement the Robledo Mountains Habitat Management Plan for deer, antelope, and upland game species, which includes the installation of water developments as needed.
- Animal Damage Control actions would be conducted in accordance with their annual plans.

2.5. SUMMARY COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

Table 2-1 summarizes the impacts by resource by alternative for the PTNM. These impacts are fully discussed in Chapter 4. The dark gray shaded boxes list the resource or use, and the boxes with no shading are the estimated impacts per alternative.

The following resources have been found to have negligible or no impacts from any of the management alternatives proposed:

- Riparian Areas
- Woodland Management
- Floodplains and Wetlands
- Geology
- Minerals
- Hazardous and Solid Wastes
- Prime or Unique Farmlands
- Wild and Scenic Rivers

The BLM reached out to American Indian tribes but were not made aware of any tribal concerns from the management alternatives.

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
Casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources would lead to depletion of the resources.	Closing the PTNM to the casual collection of fossils would reduce the loss of scientific-worthy vertebrate fossils, but would also reduce educational and recreational opportunities.	Restricting the casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils would reduce the loss of scientific-worthy vertebrate fossils.	Same as Alternative C except, both the beneficial and adverse impacts from on-site interpretation and facilities would be increased due to more development.
Off-site interpretation would increase protection through enhancing awareness, and leaving sites conserved in-situ for future research.	Off-site interpretation would protect resources by increasing awareness and leaving paleontological sites conserved in-situ for future research.	On-site education and interpretation would increase awareness of the resource but could increase the potential for looting.	
Vehicles would continue to damage fossils through crushing, fracturing, or staining.	Closure to motorized and mechanized travel would eliminate damage to fossils from this use.	Closing certain routes would protect important exposed fossils from OHV activity. Development of visitor facilities could increase visitation and thereby result in increased stewardship, but vandalism and looting could also increase.	
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION			
Scientific research would enhance education and interpretation through the discovery of new sites.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant paleontological resources would enhance the educational experience in the Monument.	The closure to casual collection of fossils would limit the on-site interpretive experience.	Same as Alternative B.	Collecting common fossils in conjunction with a BLM activity would enhance the educational experience.
Limited facility and trail development would constrain the interpretive experience on-site.	Same as Alternative A.	On-site interpretation, trails and facilities would be developed to enhance educational opportunities.	The development of a motorized interpretive tour or a visitor center would enhance the experience of many visitors.
	Managing for lands with wilderness characteristics may limit new surface disturbing activities such as interpretative trails and signs in those areas (576 acres).	Same as Alternative B except surface disturbing activities may be limited to 253 acres. The remaining 323 acres found to have wilderness characteristics, but not managed for those characteristics, may be impacted from potential surface disturbing activities.	Lands found to have wilderness characteristics would not be managed for those characteristics, therefore development may occur and may impact the wilderness characteristics in those areas (576 acres).

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
RECREATION AND VISITOR SERVICES			
Annual visitation to the Monument area is 25,000.	Annual visitation may be reduced by 5,625 visitors.	Annual visitation would increase to 37,500 people.	Annual visitation would increase to 75,000 people.
Casual collecting of common invertebrate and plant fossils provides a recreational opportunity.	Casual collection of fossils, Special Recreation Permits, and motorized and mechanized vehicle use would not be allowed, thus reducing the number of recreation opportunities.	Same as Alternative B.	Collecting common fossils while in conjunction with a BLM activity would provide a recreational opportunity.
The lack of on-site visitor facilities limits the visitor experience and may reduce visitation from some groups.	Same as Alternative A.	On-site visitor facilities would enhance the visitor experience and may increase visitation.	A visitor center and a campground would create recreational opportunities.
Target shooting could cause conflict between users.	Same as Alternative A.	Closure to target shooting would reduce a recreational opportunity.	Same as Alternative C.
No planned improvement or maintenance of trails would limit recreation.		Closure of a portion of the OHV trails would impact the extreme OHV users. Maintaining and developing trails and routes would enhance recreational opportunities.	A 1.4-mile portion of trail route would remain open providing an opportunity to access an extreme route.
TRAILS AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT			
Continued use of the existing 37.6 miles of designated trails provides an extensive route network with a variety of opportunities for motorized, mechanized, and pedestrian use and travel.	Closing the Monument to motorized and mechanized travel would reduce access to most visitors.	Limiting motorized and mechanized travel to 32.2 miles of designated routes would provide an extensive route network with a variety of opportunities for use.	Same as Alternative C, except 33.6 miles of routes would be designated.
	Managing for lands with wilderness characteristics may limit new surface disturbing activities, such as trails and roads and routes in those areas (576 acres).	Lands found to have wilderness characteristics, managed for those characteristics, may limit the new development of facilities, additional roads and routes and maintenance in those areas (253 acres). The 323 acres found to have wilderness characteristics, but not managed for those characteristics, may be impacted from potential surface disturbing activities	Lands found to have wilderness characteristics would not be managed for those characteristics, therefore new trails, roads, and route construction may occur and may impact the wilderness characteristics in those areas (576 acres).
Improvement or maintenance of existing routes has not been planned for, reducing the ease of access for educational and some recreational uses.	Lack of improvement or maintenance of routes would reduce the ease of access and recreational experience for many visitors.	Improved and maintained routes would enhance the visitor experience.	Same as Alternative C.

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
AIR RESOURCES-- AIR QUALITY			
Vehicle travel on designated trails has the potential to emit pollutants and cause dust.	Closure to motorized and mechanized use would reduce dust and emissions compared to Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Surface disturbance from potential authorized rights-of-way could cause dust emissions.	Rights-of-way would not be allowed. Emissions would be less than Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Mineral extraction could cause dust emissions.	No mineral extraction would take place. Emissions would be less than Alternative A.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
	Managing for lands with wilderness characteristics may limit new surface disturbing activities, and potentially reduce dust emissions in those areas (576 acres), compared to Alternative A.	The 323 acres of lands with wilderness characteristics, but not managed for them, may be subject to disturbing activities that increase dust emissions.	Lands found to have wilderness characteristics would not be managed for them. Dust emissions may potentially increase due to surface disturbing activities in those areas (576 acres).
		Construction of facilities could cause emissions.	Same as Alternative C.
AIR RESOURCES -- CLIMATE			
It is not possible to predict with certainty the potential emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) associated with the four alternatives, their potential impacts on temperature within the <i>Planning Area</i> , or related impacts on resources due to climate change. In general, trails and travel management, livestock grazing, and wildland fire generate GHG emissions that contribute to climate change and, in turn, may impact resources.			
CULTURAL RESOURCES			
The BLM would comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act thereby minimizing impacts to cultural resources.	Closure of the Monument to rights-of way, vehicular travel and other surface disturbing activities would greatly reduce the potential impacts to cultural resources.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
LANDS AND REALTY			
Surface disturbing land use authorizations could take place.	Surface disturbing land use authorizations would be excluded from the PTNM.	Surface disturbing land use authorizations would be considered with the exception of lands managed for their wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative C
Commercial-scale renewable energy would be excluded.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Authorizations would meet Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes I to IV.	There would be no VRM impacts.	VRM I and II could limit land use authorizations.	Same as Alternative C.
	Obtaining non-Federal minerals would eliminate split-estate issues.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS			
Lands found to have wilderness characteristics but not managed for those characteristics may be impacted (576 acres).	Managing for lands with wilderness characteristics would protect the wilderness characteristics in those areas (576 acres).	Lands found to have wilderness characteristics and managed for them may limit disturbance activities (253 acres). The remaining 323 acres found to have wilderness characteristics, but not managed for them, may be impacted from potential surface disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative A.
		Designation of the Monument as VRM I and II would help retain wilderness characteristics.	VRM I and II designations may help to retain some of the wilderness characteristics found in the PTNM.
LIVESTOCK GRAZING			
Increased visitation could cause increased conflicts with livestock and recreational users.	There would be no direct impacts from livestock grazing in the Monument.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternatives C with more anticipated interactions between visitors and livestock as visitor facilities and routes increase.
	Exclusion from grazing would require fencing and management adjustments in the Picacho Peak and Altamira allotments.	Fences would be constructed to protect significant fossils as needed. Forage reductions would be based on the specific acres excluded.	
Vegetation treatments could improve forage and reduce competition.		Same as Alternative A but using more effective techniques.	Same as Alternatives A and C, but with more forage possibly improved.
	Animal unit months (AUMs) would be reduced by a minimum of 456 for the two allotments.	Excluding improvements from 253 acres managed for wilderness characteristics may reduce the use of forage.	

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS			
Visitation to the PTNM would support 16 jobs and \$417,000 in labor income annually.	Visitation to the PTNM would support 4 jobs and \$94,000 in labor income annually.	Visitation to the PTNM would support 24 jobs and \$626,000 in labor income annually.	Visitation to the PTNM would support 47 jobs and annual labor income of \$1,251,000.
Visitor facilities would not be constructed.	Economic benefits from facility construction would not be realized.	Development of visitor facilities would temporarily increase local employment and labor income during construction.	Same as Alternative C.
Alternative A has the lowest levels of non-market economic values and the least support for social values related to preservation of ecological health and wilderness.	Alternative B would support the highest levels of non-market economic values and social values related to protection of natural and cultural resources.	Alternative C balances social values of access and motorized recreation with values related to ecological health and wilderness.	Alternative D would support lower levels of non-market economic values and social values related to protection of natural and cultural resources.
Similar levels of employment and income would be supported.	Elimination of grazing would reduce labor income to ranchers.	Social and economic consequences of grazing are the same under Alternatives A.	Same as Alternatives A.
None of the decisions are expected to disproportionately or adversely affect environmental justice communities.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Designation of 37.6 miles of roads and trails open to motorized and mechanized uses supports social values related to public land access and OHV recreation.	Closure to motorized and mechanized uses would reduce the quality of life for those who primarily value OHV recreation, but would make PTNM more of an attraction for others.	Same as Alternative A but with a reduction in available routes for extreme OHV opportunities.	Same as Alternative C.
SOILS			
Excavations could cause highly disturbed areas. Casual collecting of fossils would have a minor disturbance.	Surface disturbance would be reduced because casual collecting would be prohibited.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative A.
Soil disturbance would be caused by recreation, research, interpretation tours, camping, Special Recreation Permits, vehicular travel, right-of-way development, and range improvements.	Closure to vehicular travel and camping, no issuance of Special Recreation Permits, removal of grazing, and exclusion of surface disturbing land use authorizations would all benefit soils.	Visitor facilities would displace and compact soils, increasing runoff and erosion rates.	Same as Alternative C.
Spills of petroleum products could contaminate soils.			

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
SPECIAL DESIGNATION -- AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)			
Manage as the Robledo Mountains ACEC.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
SPECIAL DESIGNATION-- RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA)			
Management prescriptions of the RNA would be duplicated by the PTNM Legislation.	The RNA designation would be removed and replaced by the PTNM RMP decisions.	Same as Alternative B.	Same as Alternative B.
SPECIAL DESIGNATION -- WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA)			
The Robledo Mountains WSA would be managed to meet the non-impairment standard.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES			
Vehicle travel and dispersed recreation has the potential to temporarily displace special status species or injure slow moving species.	Closure to motorized and mechanized travel would reduce potential for injury of some species such as Texas horned lizard.	Same as Alternative A except development could increase temporary displacement of special status species or injure slow moving species.	Same as Alternative C.
Livestock watering sources would benefit special status species such as bats.	Elimination of livestock grazing could reduce forage competition and improve habitat for species such as burrowing owl and northern shrike.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Vegetation management would improve habitat for species associated with grasslands.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
VEGETATION			
Special designations would protect 789 acres from surface disturbing activities.	Same as Alternative A, but with an additional 576 acres managed as lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A except an additional 253 acres would be managed as lands with wilderness characteristics.	Same as Alternative A.
Use of trails and routes has the potential to remove or damage vegetation and spread noxious weeds.	Surface disturbing activities, e.g., Special Recreation Permits, OHV use, and rights-of-way, would be restricted to reduce the potential for damage to vegetation.	Development of new trails, routes, or facilities could remove vegetative cover in other areas.	Same as Alternative C except additional surface disturbance and vegetation removal is possible from facilities development.
Livestock grazing may remove 30 to 50 percent of key forage species and has the potential to introduce or spread weeds.	Elimination of livestock grazing decreases utilization of forage species favored by cattle.	Same as Alternative A	Same as Alternative A.
Vegetation treatments have the potential to shift species dominance and control weeds.	Treatment options would be limited for noxious weed control.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.

**TABLE 2-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY RESOURCE BY ALTERNATIVE**

ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C (PREFERRED)	ALTERNATIVE D
VISUAL RESOURCES			
VRM Class I designation would preserve the character of the landscape on 789 acres of the most scenic, natural appearing, and visually sensitive areas.	1,365 acres would be designated as VRM Class I as described in Alternative A.	1,042 acres would be designated VRM Class I as described in Alternative A.	789 acres would be designated VRM Class I as described in Alternative A.
VRM Class II would retain the existing character of the landscape on 907 acres.	3,912 acres would be designated VRM Class II as described in Alternative A.	4,213 acres would be designated VRM Class II as described in Alternative A.	4,465 acres would be VRM Class II as described in Alternative A.
The remaining lands would be designated as VRM Class III and IV, which allow more change in the visual character of the land.	Exclusion of livestock from the Monument could cause short-term visual impacts from fence construction.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Development of 368 acres of non-Federal minerals may impact the existing character of the landscape.			
WATER RESOURCES			
Surface disturbing activities may create nonpoint source pollutants that could transport to the Rio Grande, decrease infiltration, increase runoff, and alter water flow patterns.	Restrictions in surface disturbing activities would help soil stability and productivity, hinder erosion, and reduce nonpoint source pollution.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT			
Visitation and associated recreation activities could increase potential for human-caused wildfires.	Same as Alternative A except the reduction of some recreation activities would reduce the potential of human-caused wildfires.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
Vegetation treatments could cause an increase in fuel loading resulting in unwanted fire behavior.	Reduction in livestock grazing would increase fuels and the likelihood that a wildfire would carry.		
WILDLIFE			
Increase in visitation and recreation activities could temporarily displace wildlife.	Closure to travel would decrease potential injury and displacement of wildlife.	Same as Alternative A except increased displacement could occur around developed interpretation sites and facilities	Same as Alternative C, except prescribed fire could displace, kill or render habitat unsuitable but would have long-term benefits to habitat.
Vehicular travel has the potential to injure slow moving wildlife.	Removal of livestock would increase forage and cover for wildlife.		